

FISHERIES UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 1-7, 2016. Report #11

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Office of Subsistence Management, USFWS.

The purpose of the weekly fisheries update is to provide the reader with an overall summary of the status of subsistence related fisheries throughout the state of Alaska. The target audience is the Federal Subsistence Board and its Staff Committee. The report was compiled with the assistance of the Federal in-season managers and OSM staff that provided weekly updated information by the close of business on Friday of the reporting week. My goal is to have the report sent by the close of business the following Monday. Web links have been included to provide additional information. You may obtain additional information on a fishery of particular interest by contacting the in-season manager, provided contacts, follow the provided web links, or contact me.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA**Sitka and Hoonah Area, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest**

Klag Bay - The Sitka Tribe of Alaska operates the Sockeye Salmon monitoring weir at Klag Bay which is operating as of June 28th. As of August 6th, 2,285 Sockeye Salmon have been counted and about 2,200 have been harvested in the bay. The run timing is largely driven by stream flow and Sockeye Salmon began moving in with the recent rain. In 2015, approximately 3,304 sockeye migrated past the weir while an estimated 1,344 sockeye were harvested in the marine terminal area subsistence and sport fishery. Subsistence harvest accounted for over 99% of terminal area harvest.

Redoubt Lake - The Forest Service operates the Redoubt Lake weir which was operational June 13th. As of August 7th, 16,053 Sockeye Salmon were counted passing the weir with 94 passing on August 7th. Based on historic run timing and magnitude, the projected final escapement is about 22,500. In accordance with the Redoubt Lake management plan, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has increased the individual/household Sockeye Salmon limit from 10/50 to 25/100 and increased the sport fish bag and possession limit to 6. In 2015, an estimated total of 13,379 Sockeye Salmon passed through the weir into Redoubt Lake. The Coho Salmon passage is well above average for this date, indicating that the final run will be well above the long term average for the 2nd consecutive year. In 2015 we estimate about 30,000 Coho Salmon returned to Redoubt Lake and this year we are predicting about 15,000 will return. The long term average is around 5,000.

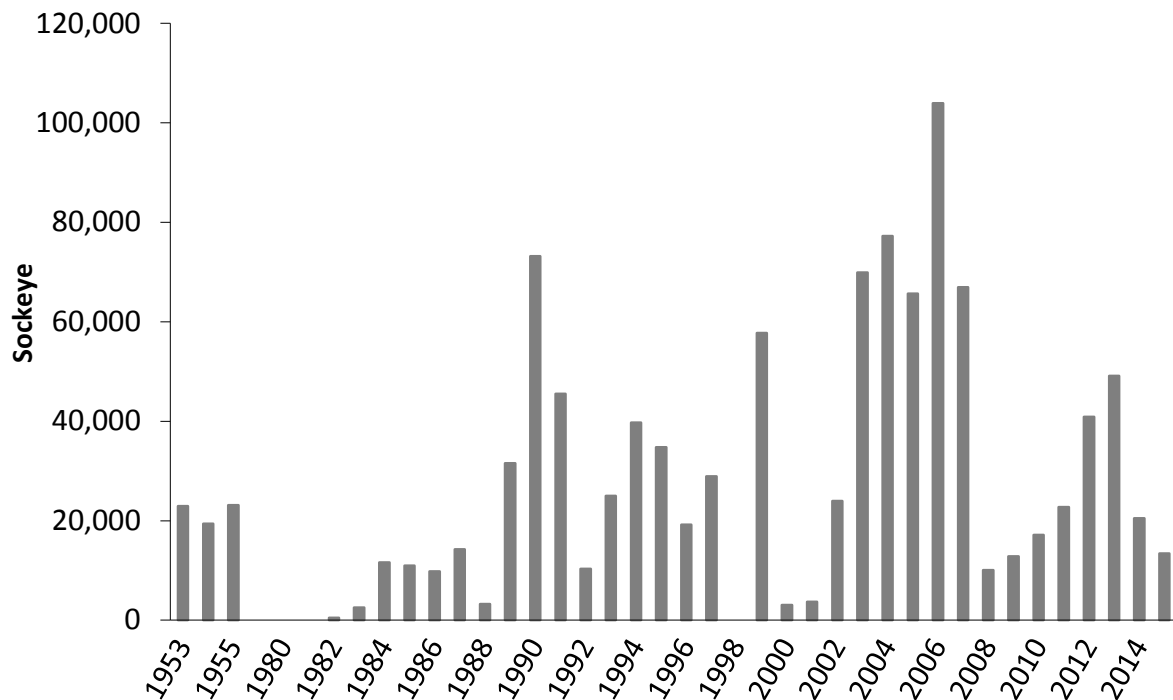


Figure 1. Annual Sockeye Salmon expanded escapement into Redoubt Lake for years with data: 1953 to 1955, 1982 to 1997, and 1999 to 2015. The weir was not operated in 1998.

Falls Lake - The Forest Service and the Organized Village of Kake operate the Falls Lake trap and video net weir which were operating as of July 1st. On August 7th, 26 Sockeye Salmon were counted at the trap bringing the season total to 3,009. About 1,100 sockeye have been harvested in the subsistence. The final escapement estimate in 2015 was 4,716 Sockeye Salmon while the final subsistence and sport harvest in the marine terminal area was 1,031. Subsistence harvest accounted for 99% of terminal area harvest.



Figure 2. Employees from the Organized Village of Kake and the Forest Service assemble the fish trap above the fish pass at Falls Lake.

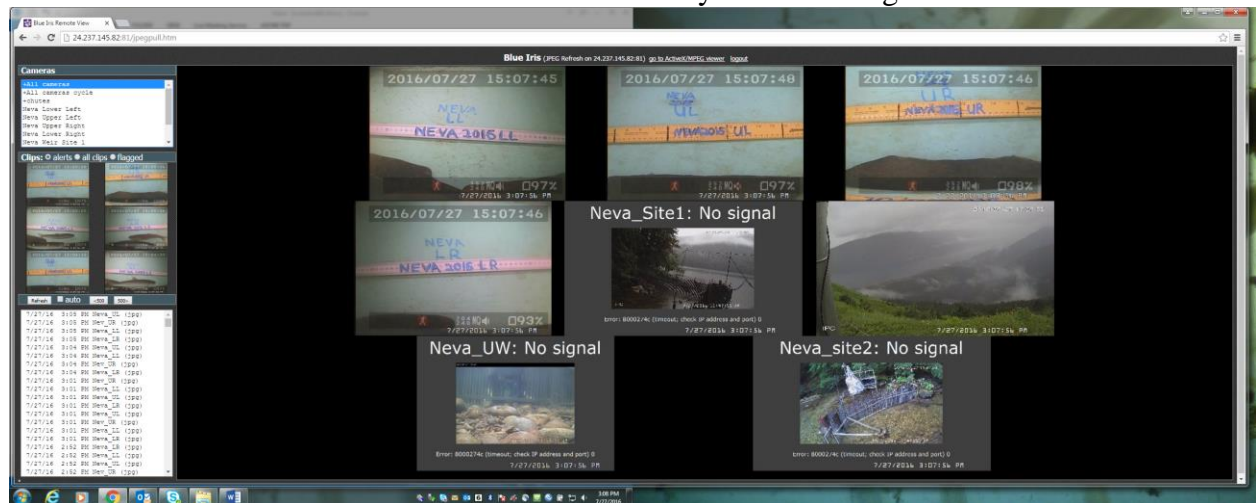
Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska

Yakutat. ADF&G personnel have now counted a total of 329 large Chinook Salmon through their picket weir on the lower Situk River. Past weir counts suggest that about 98% of the Chinook Salmon have escaped for the season and the end-of-season count will be around 336 fish which will be below the lower end of ADF&G's 450 to 1,050 escapement goal range. The Situk weir count of Sockeye Salmon is now over 50,000 and in the middle of the ADF&G's 30,000 to 70,000 fish escapement goal range.

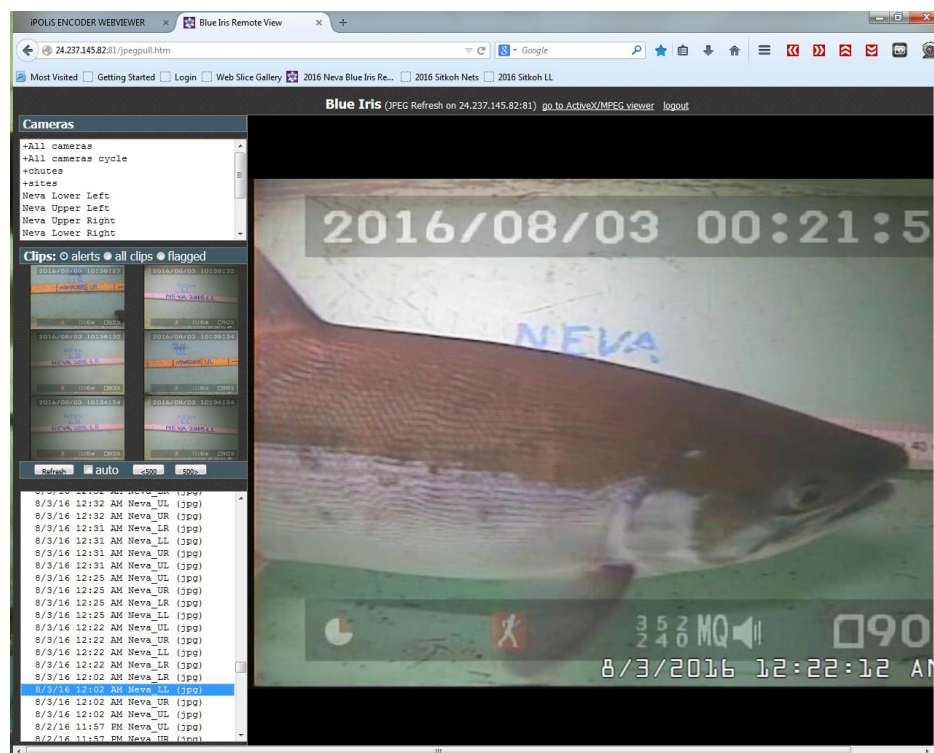
Northern Inside areas of Southeast Alaska. Wild Pink Salmon and hatchery Chum Salmon runs have been weak this season. There were no commercial purse seine openings in northern inside waters last week and none planned for the coming week.

Neva Lake. Personnel from the Hoonah Indian Association have been operating a pair of video weirs at the outlet of Neva Lake since June 14. Eight hundred and nineteen Sockeye Salmon have escaped into the lake as of August 4. Live video, and recent

motion-triggered video, from our four in-chute cameras and four project site surveillance cameras can now be seen by typing “24:237:148:82:81” into Google Chrome’s web browser. The four surveillance cameras will not always be streaming live video.



Screen capture of the four video chute cameras and four site surveillance cameras from Neva Lake’s remote monitoring system.



Screen capture of video review from Neva Lake’s remote monitoring system.

Kook Lake. Personnel from the Angoon Community Association (ACA) have been operating a pair of video net weirs at the outlet of Kook Lake since June 26. As of August 5, 2,798 Sockeye Salmon have escaped into the lake.

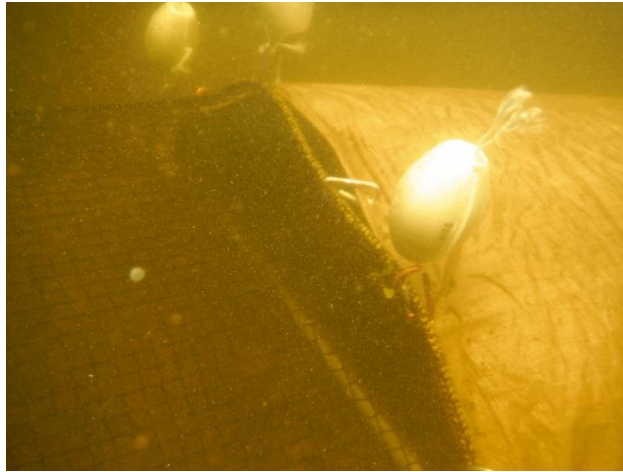


Photo of the pair of video net weirs and floating camp at the outlet of Kook Lake, August 4, 2016.

Sitkoh Lake. A pair of remotely monitored video net weirs were installed at the outlet of Sitkoh Lake on June 30th. The ACA project personnel who work at Kook Lake do the video review and fish counting from both the Kook and Sitkoh video weirs and their counts through July 25 was 301 Sockeye Salmon into Sitkoh Lake.



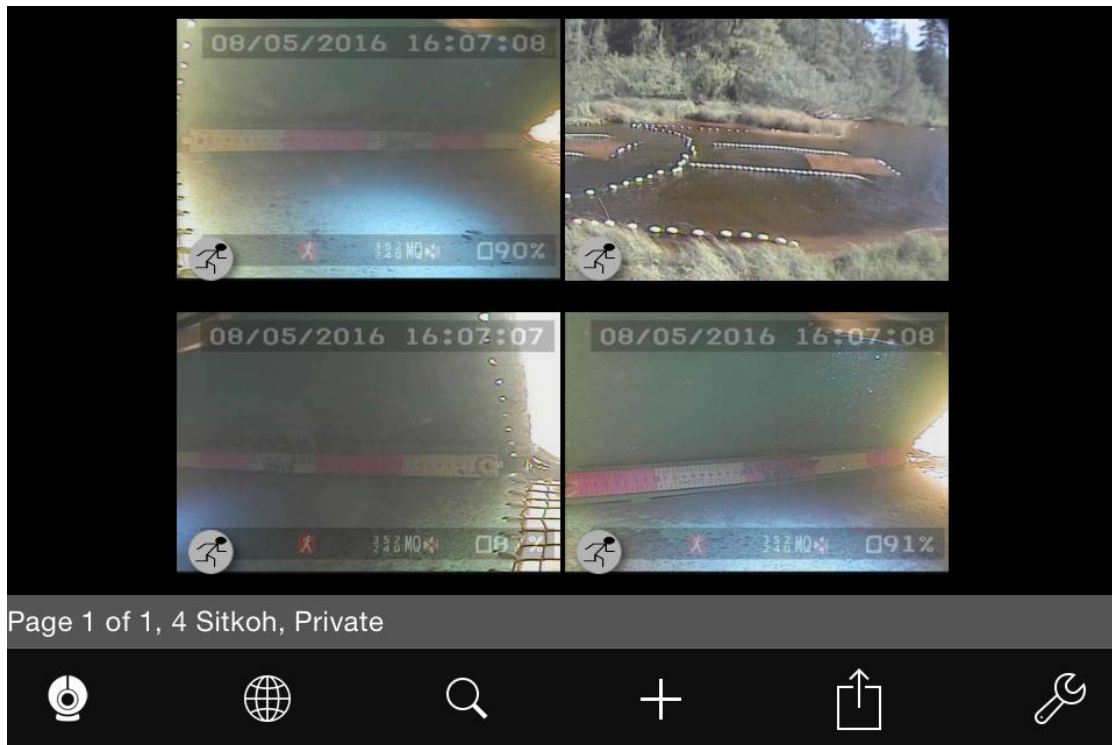
Underwater picture of the downstream end of a video chute at the Sitkoh Lake video net weirs.



Underwater picture of a downstream passage chute under a net weir at Sitkoh Lake.



Underwater picture of the weed-line allowing downstream passage of fish over a net weir at Sitkoh Lake.



Screen shot of iPhone® with live video from the remotely monitored Sitkoh Lake video net weirs.

Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area

The 2016 Federal subsistence salmon fishery for Southeast Alaska and Yakutat areas is on-going. To date, 235 permits have been issued.

Most subsistence Sockeye Salmon fisheries have completed with exception to subsistence users fishing marine waters, under State issued permits at Eek and Hetta. Effort at Klawock and Hetta has been lower than normal due to lower returns. Some fishing effort was been noted at Hatchery Creek and Karta River.

The Hydaburg Cooperative Association projects at both Hetta Lake and Eek Lake are on-going. There have been 352 Sockeye Salmon counted at Hetta to date and 14 at Eek. The Klawock Lake project has had 347 Sockeye Salmon counted to date.

Commercial seining is ongoing for Chum Salmon in a hatchery terminal areas in District 2 and directed effort for Pink and Sockeye Salmon occurring in Districts 1 and 4. Drift gillnet openings are occurring weekly in District 1. The summer season commercial troll for Chinook began July 1 summer. The commercial troll fishery for Chinook has been closed since July 6 and is now primarily targeting Coho Salmon in non-terminal harvest areas. Commercial harvest to date is 25,755 Chinook Salmon, 494,395 Sockeye Salmon, 208,100 Coho Salmon, 9,482,700 Pink Salmon and 1,316,400 Chum Salmon from Districts 1-4.

Wrangell/Petersburg Area – Bob Larson, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

There have been 132 fishing permits issued for the Stikine River subsistence salmon fishery. The estimated cumulative subsistence harvest is 45 Chinook, 5 Coho and 1,950 Sockeye Salmon. Pink salmon are returning to the southern and western portions of the region in good numbers although returns to the northern inside portions of the region remain weak. Halibut have been abundant in the subsistence, commercial and sport fisheries.

Sitka and Hoonah Area – Justin Koller, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest

Justin Koller, (907)747-4297 jpkoller@fs.fed.us

Wrangell/Petersburg Area – Bob Larson, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest (907) 772-5930, robertlarson@fs.fed.us

Yakutat, Juneau, and Admiralty areas of Northern Southeast Alaska - Ben Van Alen (907-789-6257; bvanalen@fs.fed.us) and Jake Musslewhite (907-789-6256; jgmusslewhite@fs.fed.us), Forest Service, **Tongass National Forest**

Prince of Wales and Ketchikan District Area – Jeff Reeves, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest. (907) 826-1649 jreeves@fs.fed.us

Southeast Alaska Web Links

Tongass National Forest News Room <http://www.fs.usda.gov/news/tongass/news-events>

*Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Southeastern Alaska Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Southeast.pdf*

*ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R1>*

*ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>*

*Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southeast Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R1.home>*

*Statewide ADF&G Fish counts
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>*

SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA

PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND – COPPER RIVER

Copper River – Dave Sarafin, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve

The ADF&G sonar at Miles Lake (located just downstream of the Million Dollar Bridge in the Copper River) was removed from the river as of July 29. It estimated that 801,593 salmon had migrated upstream for the season. This estimate is 21% more than the projected escapement of 663,261 for this date, or 138,332 more salmon.

The Chitina Subdistrict was closed for 50 hours from 11:59 p.m. Sunday, July 31 through 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, August 2 and from 10:00 p.m. Sunday, August 7 until 11:59 p.m. on that day. For the week, it was open between 12:01 a.m. on Wednesday, August 3 through 10:00 p.m. Sunday, August 7. The state and federal fisheries usually follow identical fishing schedules which are set by the state. Ninety-five (95) Federal Chitina Subdistrict permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity.

The Glennallen Subdistrict opened for Federal subsistence users on May 15th and is expected to remain open until September 30th. Two hundred eighty-one (281) Federal Glennallen permits have been issued on the FWS online data base. Additional permits for this subdistrict have been issued in Chitina and Kennecott, NPS ranger stations that do not have internet connectivity. The state subsistence fishery in the Glennallen Subdistrict opened on June 1.

The Batzulnetas fishery is open. No Federal permits have been issued, as of the online data base.

The Tanada Creek fish weir is continuing to operate. The cumulative season counts through August 5 are 8,259 Sockeye Salmon and 2 Chinook Salmon.

The Long Lake fish weir was installed on July 26. As of August 5, no salmon have been observed in the creek.

ADF&G's counting tower in the Gulkana River has estimated 1,056 Chinook Salmon migrating past the site as of July 29. (The 2015 estimate to this date was 3,612 fish.)

Seven Special Actions have been issued by the park this season:

- delaying the starting date of the Chitina Subdistrict federal subsistence salmon fishery and setting the tentative pre-season schedule for this fishery.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 4 – July 10, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing and providing the tentative schedule for future fishing periods.

- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 11-17, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 18-24, allowing a full week (168 hours) of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of July 25-31, allowing for 160 hours of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of August 1-7, allowing for 118 hours of fishing.
- amending the preseason schedule for the Chitina Subdistrict for the week of August 8-14, allowing for 78 hours of fishing.

Links

ADF&G Miles Lake daily sonar estimates

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.salmon_escapement

NVE's Chinook Escapement Monitoring project in the Copper River

<http://eyak.fishscan.com/Summary/DailySummary.aspx>

ADF&G Copper River Inseason Commercial Harvest Estimates

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=commercialbyareacopperriver.harvestsummary>

Gulkana River counting tower – ADF&G

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.LocSelectYearSpecies>

PWS and Copper River Delta – Milo Burcham, Chugach National Forest, Cordova.

(907) 424-4759 mburcham@fs.fed.us

Out of office working with bears and will submit summary when back in office.

Cook Inlet Area – Jeff Anderson, Field Supervisor, Kenai Fish and Wildlife Field Office (907) 260-0132 Jeffry_Anderson@fws.gov

Harvest of 1,037 Sockeye Salmon from the Russian River Falls dip net fishery and 6 Sockeye Salmon in the Kasilof River dip net fishery have been reported through August 4. A season total harvest of 94 Sockeye Salmon has been reported for the Kasilof River experimental community gillnet fishery through the regulatory end date of July 31. Harvest of 165 Sockeye Salmon and 1 Coho Salmon has been reported for the Kenai River experimental community gillnet fishery through August 4. Totals of 158 Kenai River permits, 45 Kasilof River permits, and 13 Designated Fisher permits have been issued through August 4.

Fish counts at some Department-operated assessment projects are available on-line at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/index.cfm?ADFG=main.home>

Kodiak Island Area – Anne Marie La Rosa, Refuge Manager, - Kodiak NWR
(907) 487-2600/0230 AnneMarie_LaRosa@fws.gov or
Kevin Van Hatten (907) 487-0230 Kevin_VanHatten@fws.gov

No report submitted this week.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kodiak Area
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs13/kodiak.pdf>

Bristol Bay and Chignik – Johnathon Gerken Fisheries Branch Chief Anchorage Fish and Wildlife Field Office
(907) 271-2776 Jonathon_Gerken@fws.gov

Deployed, will submit report next week.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Bristol Bay Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Bristol.pdf

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Chignik Area
http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/chignik.pdf

Southcentral Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases
<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=fishingSportFishingInfo.R2>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Southcentral Alaska
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R2.Home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Yukon River – Gerald Maschmann, Fish Biologist USFWS Fairbanks Office.

Gerald_Maschmann@fws.gov or

Fred Bue Fredrick_Bue@fws.gov

Emmonak Summer Office (907) 949-1798

The Emmonak Field Office is open for fall management activities. For management questions call (907) 949-1798.

Summer Season Outlook, Management Strategies, and Assessment

The Yukon River summer season has nearly ended in the Alaskan portion of the Yukon drainage and management has switched to fall season. The fourth and final pulse of Chinook Salmon has passed into Canada and terminal streams. The Pilot Station sonar had an estimated passage through July 18 of 175,000 Chinook Salmon. This is at the upper end of the pre-season outlook range of 130,000 to 175,000 and near the historical cumulative average of 185,000 for the project. The Eagle sonar estimated passage through August 4 is 69,000 Chinook Salmon, above the upper end of the escapement goal range of 42,500-55,000. Passage rates at the Eagle sonar are trickling down below 1,000 per day as the run comes to an end. At this time, the Canadian harvest sharing agreement has been surpassed with most Canadian escapement needs likely provided for.

As in recent years, initial management was based on the expectation that the 2016 Chinook Salmon run size would likely be near the lower end of this range. Management strategies have followed those agreed to during pre-season management meetings. Early subsistence fishing opportunities targeted non-Chinook Salmon species, such as whitefish and Summer Chum Salmon. The majority of the Chinook Salmon run has been protected to some extent with closures and restrictive fishing gear all the way upriver and into the spawning areas. As the season progressed and managers became more confident in the assessment information, fishing restrictions were relaxed to allow for some Chinook Salmon harvests. With a run size similar to 2015, managers were successful in providing slightly more subsistence fishing opportunity for both Summer Chum and directed Chinook Salmon harvest while achieving escapement objectives. Preliminary subsistence reports indicate that many fishermen are generally happy at being given some limited opportunities to fish for Chinook Salmon. Some report having met all their salmon needs, while others are planning to fish for Fall Chum Salmon to meet their needs.

The Summer Chum Salmon run was projected to be average to above average and to provide for escapement and subsistence uses with a surplus of 450,000 to 950,000 anticipated to be available for commercial harvest. The Summer Chum Salmon run exceeded the upper end of the pre-season expectation. The final passage estimate of Summer Chum past the Pilot Station sonar was 1.9 million fish. Approximately 525,000 Summer Chum Salmon were harvested in the commercial fishery.

The East Fork Andreafsky River weir passed a below average 2,676 Chinook Salmon and an above median 50,362 Summer Chum Salmon. Escapement goals for both salmon species were met in the Andreafsky River and operations ceased on July 24. The Anvik

River sonar estimated a below median Summer Chum Salmon passage with 330,700 fish and ceased operations on July 24. The minimum escapement goal of 350,000 Summer Chum Salmon for the Anvik River was not met. The Gisasa River weir passed a below average 1,395 Chinook Salmon and a well above average 66,670 Summer Chum Salmon with operations ceased on July 28. The Henshaw Creek weir passed a slightly above average 1,338 Chinook Salmon and a well above average 283,957 Summer Chum Salmon with operations ceased on August 1. Assessment at the Chena and Salcha Rivers has been hindered by high water.

Fall Season Outlook and Management Strategies

The 2016 Fall Chum Salmon preseason run projection, based on the Summer Chum to Fall Chum Salmon relationship, is for a run size between 800,000 and 900,000 fish. This level of abundance should be sufficient to provide for escapement, an above average subsistence harvest, and a surplus available for commercial and personal use purposes. Subsistence salmon fishing was initially relaxed to the normal regulatory salmon fishing schedule and gear which allows gillnets with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh. Commercial fishing will generally continue on a standard schedule of 2 periods per week in each of Districts 1 and 2 with some juggling to target pulses of Fall Chum Salmon as warranted based on assessment.

Assessment

The Lower Yukon Test Fishery (LYTF) shifted to fall season assessment on July 16. Through August 4, the cumulative CPUE is 506.39 is above the average of 548.32. The Mt. Village Test Fishery (MVTF) began operations on July 18 and has a cumulative CPUE of 1,479.68, above the average at this time of 732.51. The Pilot Station sonar shifted to fall season assessment on July 19 and has a cumulative estimated passage of 429,000 Fall Chum Salmon, well above the median estimated passage of 219,000. The first pulse of approximately 360,000 Fall Chum passed the sonar on July 19 through 28. The second pulse of approximately 65,000 Fall Chum Salmon passed the sonar on August 1-4.

Management Actions

Subsistence fishing in the Coastal District and Districts 1- 3 and Subdistrict 5D has been relaxed to their normal schedule of 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear. District 4 and Subdistricts 5A, 5B, and 5C were liberalized to 24 hours per day, seven days per week with 7.5-inch or smaller mesh gillnet gear. District 6 remains on its normal regulatory schedule. Commercial fishing for Fall Chum Salmon began in District 1 on July 18 and District 2 on July 20. Seven periods in District 1 have an estimated harvest of 80,000 Fall Chum Salmon, and five periods in District 2 have an estimated harvest of 70,000 Fall Chum Salmon.

Consultation

Extensive public outreach and consultation occurred during the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016 to inform and seek input from Yukon River fishermen and stakeholders. Run outlook and possible management strategies were discussed at Federal RAC meetings and State AC meetings, the Yukon River Panel meeting and at the annual Yukon River

Drainage Fishermen's Association Board meeting. In April, a pre-season planning meeting was held in Anchorage that brought together representatives from most Alaskan Yukon River communities to discuss the run outlook and management options. Assessment and management actions were discussed on the eighth YRDFA teleconference on August 2. Alaska members of the Yukon River Panel, their alternates, and advisors (YAG) teleconferenced with State and Federal managers on June 22 and July 12. Participants were brought up to date on current run assessment, mid-season run expectations, and summarized management actions to date. Management options and strategies were discussed with concerns and suggestions identified for management consideration.

Kuskokwim River – Ray Born, Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Contact Vernon_Born@fws.gov; (907) 543-3151 or Lewis_Coggins@fws.gov

No report submitted this week.

Yukon-Kuskokwim-Interior Alaska Web Links

Federal Subsistence Management Fisheries News Releases:

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/news/fishing/index.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Yukon–Northern Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Yukon.pdf

NEW = Kuskokwim River Updates Hosted on OSM Website

<http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/kuskokwim.cfm>

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for Kuskokwim Area

http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regulation/fish_shell/upload/Kusko.pdf

ADF&G Sport and Personal Use Fishing News Release and Emergency Order link:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/EONR/index.cfm?ADFG=region.R3>

ADF&G Commercial Fisheries News Release and Emergency Order Link:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>

Weekly ADF&G Sport Fishing Reports for Interior Alaska:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishingReports/index.cfm?ADFG=R3.home>

Statewide ADF&G Fish counts:

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/FishCounts/>

Northwest Alaska – Ken Adkisson, National Park Service, Nome.

(907) 443-2522 Ken_Adkisson@nps.gov

Norton Sound District

High water has knocked out a total of seven counting projects in the Norton Sound District. In addition to the four counting projects in southern Norton Sound that were knocked out two weeks ago, three more were knocked out late last week. However, two projects were able to resume counting this past Sunday (see individual subdistricts below for details).

Commercial salmon fishing periods are being set in consultation with the buyer.

Unalakleet (Subdistrict 6)

The Federal public waters of the Unalakleet River upstream from the Chirosky River remain closed to July 31 to the taking of Chinook salmon by Federal subsistence regulation. This closure affects all users.

Sport Fishing: The harvest restrictions for Chinook salmon in the Unalakleet River drainage will remain in place through August 15, 2016 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing periods are being set in consultation with the buyer. Commercial salmon fishing was open in the subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Commercial salmon fishing was reopened for two 48-hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 5 until 6 PM Sunday, August 7 and from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season has been 275 sockeyes, 8,500 chums, 80,000 pinks, and 1,700 silvers by 40 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week. Beach seines are restricted to 4 ½ inches or less mesh size. Any king salmon captured in beach seines must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

North River Tower – Camp J.B. - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has escapement goals of 1,200-2,600 kings; 25,000 pinks; 550-1,100 silvers (aerial survey); and no goal yet established for chums. Counts were suspended on July 20 because of high water. Cumulative counts through July 19 were 510 kings, 9 sockeyes, 16,000 chums and 1 million pinks.

Unalakleet River Floating Weir – A cooperative project of Fish & Game, Native Village of Unalakleet, United States BLM and NSEDC with major funding provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management. There are no weir escapement goals yet. Counts were suspended on July 22 because of high water. The cumulative counts through July 21 were 505 kings, 574 sockeyes, 32,000 chums, 4.9 million pinks and 142 silvers.

Shaktoolik (Subdistrict 5)

Sport Fishing: The harvest restrictions for Chinook salmon in the Shaktoolik River drainage will remain in place through August 15, 2016 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing periods are being set in consultation with the buyer. Commercial salmon fishing was open in the subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Commercial salmon fishing was reopened for two 48-hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 5 until 6 PM Sunday, August 7 and from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season has been 225 sockeyes, 11,000 chums, 27,000 pinks and 1,300 silvers by 17 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week. Beach seines are restricted to 4 ½ inches or less mesh size. Any king salmon captured in beach seines must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

Shaktoolik Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has no escapement goals yet established. Tower counts were suspended on July 18 because of high water. The sonar is now operating. Cumulative counts until late afternoon July 18 were 350 kings, 14,800 chums, 1.2 million pinks and 500 silvers.

Norton Bay (Subdistrict 4)

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing periods are being set in consultation with the buyer. Commercial salmon fishing was open in the subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Commercial salmon fishing was reopened for two 48-hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 5 until 6 PM Sunday, August 7 and from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season has been 90 kings, 80 sockeyes, 9,500 chums, 19,000 pinks and 150 silvers by 12 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open 7 days a week.

Inglutalik River Tower – A cooperative project of NSEDC and ADF&G. No escapement goals have been established. Counting was suspended on July 18 when water levels rose 5 feet. Cumulative counts through July 17 were 3,200 kings, 42,000 chums, 77,000 pinks and 700 silvers.

Elim (Subdistrict 3)

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing periods are being set in consultation with the buyer. Commercial salmon fishing was open in the subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Commercial salmon fishing was reopened for two 48-hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 5 until 6 PM Sunday, August 7 and from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season has been 40 kings, 375 sockeyes, 6,000 chums, 34,000 pinks and 150 silvers by 20 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week.

Kwiniuk River Tower – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has escapement goals of 250 kings; 11,500 – 23,000 chums; 8,400 pinks; and 650-1,300 silvers (aerial survey goal). Counting was suspended at 6 AM on July 30 and resumed at noon July 31. Cumulative counts through July 31 were 138 kings, nine sockeyes, 8,400 chums, 1.9 million pinks and 160 silvers. Both the kings and chums failed to reach escapement goals. Pink escapement ranked third highest in the 52-year project history, only trailing escapements of 2.3 million pinks in 1994 and 3 million in 2004.

Golovin (Subdistrict 2)

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing periods are being set in consultation with the buyer. Commercial salmon fishing was open in the subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31, and from 6 PM Monday, August 1 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 3. Commercial salmon fishing was reopened for two 48-hour fishing periods from 6 PM Friday, August 5 until 6 PM Sunday, August 7 and from 6 PM Monday, August 8 until 6 PM Wednesday, August 10. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretched mesh size. The commercial catch so far this season has been 10 kings, 130 sockeyes, 5,000 chums, 14,000 pinks and 50 silvers by 8 permit holders.

Subsistence Fishing: Subsistence fishing is open seven days a week.

Fish River Tower - A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game. No escapement goals have been established. Counting was suspended at 1 PM July 30. Cumulative counts were 828 kings, 24 sockeyes, 71,000 chums, 822,000 pinks and 3,300 silvers. This is a third year of the project. The silver count is well ahead of last year's count for the same date.

Nome (Subdistrict 1)

Sport fishing: The pink salmon catch limits for the Nome River has been doubled to 20 fish per day.

Commercial Fishing: Commercial salmon fishing periods are being set in consultation with the buyer. Commercial fishing opened for one 48-hour period in the Nome Subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, July 29 until 6 PM Sunday, July 31. Commercial fishing reopened for one 48-hour fishing period in the subdistrict from 6 PM Friday, August 5 until 6 PM Sunday, August 7. Permit holders are restricted to 100 fathoms of gillnet and 6 inches or less stretch mesh size.

Subsistence Fishing: The subsistence net fishing schedule in the marine waters is from 6 PM Wednesday until 6 PM Monday in the marine waters west of Cape Nome and in all freshwater subsistence areas. East of Cape Nome, the marine waters are open seven days a week. There are no catch limits when fishing in marine waters. Catch limits that vary with the river may be found on the back of the subsistence permit. Beach seines, cast nets and dip nets can be used during the net fishing schedule, but only in the subsistence areas. A record of 555 Nome Subdistrict subsistence salmon permits have been issued.

Solomon River Weir – A Fish & Game project, has no escapement goals yet established. The weir was knocked out for two days from the early evening of July 29 until the late afternoon of July 31. Cumulative counts were 1 king, 3 sockeyes, 1,700 chums, 95,000 pinks and 15 silvers. The chum and pink counts were records in the four-year project history.

Eldorado River Weir – A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 6,000 – 9,200 chum salmon. Cumulative counts through July 31 were 16 sockeyes, 18,000 chums, 39,000 pinks and 40 silvers. The chum count ranks seventh highest in 20 years.

Nome River Weir – A Fish & Game project with assistance from NSEDC has an escapement goal of 2,900 – 4,300 chum salmon and 13,000 pink salmon. Cumulative counts through July 31 were 4 kings, 5,700 chums, 1 million pinks, 100 sockeyes and 50 silvers. The pink passage is the third-highest of all time for the date, and one more expected surge of pinks will likely be enough to break the record 1.2 million mark set in 2008.

Snake River Weir – A cooperative project between Fish & Game and NSEDC has an escapement goal of 1,600 – 2,500 chum salmon. The cumulative counts through July 31 were 6 kings, 3,300 chums, 186,000 pinks, 18 sockeyes and 13 silvers. The pink count for the same date is the second highest in the 20 year project history.

Port Clarence District

Subsistence gillnet and beach seining are open 7 days a week in the district and sockeye limits have been waived. A record 490 Pilgrim River permits have been issued surpassing last year's record of 377 permits issued.

Pilgrim River Weir –A cooperative project of NSEDC with assistance from Fish & Game has an escapement goal of 4,000 – 8,000 sockeyes based on aerial survey at Salmon Lake & Grand Central tributary to Salmon Lake. The cumulative counts through July 31 were 27 kings, 15,000 chums, 2,500 pinks, 12,200 sockeyes and 2 silvers. The sockeye passage for the same date ranks eighth highest in 14 years of weir counts. The second half of the sockeye run has been strong with nearly 600 sockeyes passing through the Weir on July 31. The historical average 90% point of sockeye passage is August 2.

Kotzebue District

Commercial salmon fishing reopened for eight-hour periods daily from 10 AM until 6 PM beginning Sunday, July 31 through Friday, August 5. However, at the request of the buyer, beginning with the Monday, August 1 period, the daily schedule was reduced by 2 hours because of limited airplane cargo capacity. The daily 8-hour schedule resumed on Tuesday, August 2. The catch to August 1 has been just over 152,000 chum salmon for the season which is slightly ahead of last year when the buyer had daily catch limits of 1,500 pounds per permit holder for the last week of July and all of August. Rather than using daily catch limits, the ADF&G is adjusting the length of daily openings this season in order to adjust to the buyer's capacity.

Kobuk River Test Fish - Fish & Game project.

The Kobuk River test crew at Kiana continues to report good catches of chum salmon. The chum salmon catch index ranks tenth highest in 24 years of fishing. The catch index projection indicates the chum salmon run will be adequate to provide for subsistence needs and escapement.

Federal Subsistence Fisheries Regulations for the Kotzebue Area

<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/pdf/fishregs11/norton.pdf>